

REMARKS

Claims remaining in the present patent application are numbered 12-21 and 23-29. Claims 12 and 23 have been amended. Claims 22 and 30 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. The rejections and comments of the Examiner set forth in the Office Action dated January 10, 2005 have been carefully considered by the Applicants. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider and allow the remaining claims.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The present Office Action rejected Claims 1-21 and 23-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kammer et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,523,073) in view of Wecker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,464). Applicants have reviewed the above cited references and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claims 12-21 and 23-29, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the Kammer et al. reference taken alone or in combination with the Wecker et al. reference.

NEWLY ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, Applicant

wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claim 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 12

Applicants have herein amended into independent Claim 12 the subject matter of Claim 22, which was cited on page 3 of the present Office Action as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of its base Claim and any intervening claims. As a result, newly amended independent Claim 12 is now allowable over the prior art, and a discussion of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of that Claim is moot at this time. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 12, as amended, overcomes the Examiner's basis for rejection, and as such Claims 13-21 which depend on newly amended independent Claim 12 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 23

Applicants have herein amended into independent Claim 23 the subject matter of Claim 30, which was cited on page 3 of the present Office Action as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of its base Claim and any intervening claims. As a result, newly amended independent Claim 23 is now allowable over the prior art, and

a discussion of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of that Claim is moot at this time. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 23, as amended, overcomes the Examiner's basis for rejection, and as such Claims 24-29 which depend on newly amended independent Claim 23 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

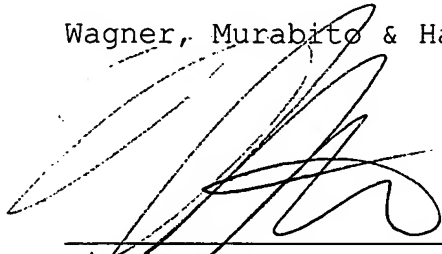
In light of the facts and arguments presented herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected Claims.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 12-21 and 23-29 overcome the rejections of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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